

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING
OPERATIONS—JULY, 1924

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In general.—The cessation of rainfall in the interior valleys during the first half of July brought more favorable weather for haying and harvesting and the cultivation of row crops, but there was further interruption to field work by frequent rains during the week ending July 22. The latter part of the month had generally light rainfall and much sunshine, and outdoor operations made good advance during that period. There was sufficient soil moisture, as a rule, in Central and Northern States, east of the Rocky Mountains, though at the close of the month it was getting rather dry in limited areas of the Ohio Valley and northern Great Plains, while rain was badly needed in the middle Atlantic coast section.

The first part of the month was too wet in the Southeastern States, but conditions improved materially during the latter half when there was less rainfall, and favorable temperatures promoted good growth. There was generally a marked lack of moisture in the central and west Gulf sections, but sufficient rainfall to materially improve conditions in much of the far Southwest, particularly in New Mexico and Arizona. West of the Rocky Mountains severe drought continued throughout the month, and while irrigated crops did fairly well, all dry-land crops suffered, and there was considerable complaint of insufficient water for proper irrigation. Drying winds in the North Pacific States increased the forest-fire hazard.

The first week of the month was much too cool for rapid growth of crops in nearly all sections east of the Rocky Mountains, the temperatures being especially low in the interior valley States and southern Plains area. Thereafter temperatures were more favorable in the South and were somewhat higher in central and northern districts, although in the latter section the nights continued too cool for best advance of warm-weather crops.

Winter wheat.—The weather was favorable in most sections for the harvesting of winter wheat, except for some delay by showers in the upper Mississippi Valley and north-central Great Plains, and threshing was making good progress at the close of the month. Unusually favorable weather for filling and ripening wheat prevailed in the Central and Northern States, and yields were better

in many places than the previous condition of the crop had indicated, except in the droughty sections of the far Northwest.

Spring wheat and oats.—Spring wheat and oats made splendid advance with the generally cool weather and ample soil moisture, and at the close of the month the former had practically all headed out in the northern border States, with general condition reported as satisfactory.

Corn.—The first 10 days of July were drier and more favorable for cultivating corn in the interior States, but growth continued slow because of cool nights. The middle and latter parts of the month brought considerably better corn weather in most sections, as temperatures were somewhat higher, though it remained too cool for good growth and rain was needed in some sections of the Great Plains and locally in the Ohio Valley. There was some improvement in this crop during the month, though its general condition remained poor in much of the principal producing area and the crop was very late, thus making the frost hazard unusually great.

Cotton.—The early part of the month was too cool for best growth of cotton, and the first half was too wet in eastern cotton districts, while soil moisture was further depleted generally in the western portion of the belt. The latter half was drier, moderately warm, and much more favorable in the eastern cotton States, but drought continued from the lower Mississippi Valley westward, where rainfall was badly needed in most sections. At the close of the month the crop showed substantial improvement in the east, and early cotton was standing the drought well in Texas, though the late-planted was becoming stunted, with considerable complaint of shedding. Poor to only fair progress was the rule also, because of deficient moisture, in parts of Alabama and Tennessee, Louisiana, and the southern portions of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Potatoes and hardy truck crops.—Potatoes and hardy truck crops did well in Central and Northern States east of the Rocky Mountains, but it was too dry for all minor crops in the Southwest, and more moisture was badly needed in parts of the Atlantic coast area.

Livestock.—The range continued mostly good in the Great Plains States and the far Southwest, but dry from the Rocky Mountains westward. Livestock remained in good to excellent condition, however, quite generally over the principal grazing areas of the Western States.